

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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DEPARTMENT PASS TO INTERIOR FOR OTA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PORG, UNGA, UK
SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF 24 (C-24) CONSIDERATION OF BERMUDA
AND OTHER TERRITORIES

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. FOLLOWING UNEXCEPTIONAL CONSIDERATION OF TOKELAU,
THE BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS, THE CAYMEN ISLANDS, PITCAIRN
AND THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS IN EARLIER MEETINGS
IN ITS 1978 SESSION, THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON SMALL TERRITORIES
OF THE C-24 BEGAN CONSIDERATION OF BERMUDA ON APRIL 6.
INTEREST IN THE BERMUDA DEBATE WAS REFLECTED IN THE
INCREASED NUMBER OF SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS AND
OBSERVERS PRESENT. CUBA, FOR INSTANCE, MADE ONE OF ITS
FIRST APPEARANCES IN A FORMAL MEETING OF THE
SUBCOMMITTEE (IT HAS PARTICIPATED IN INFORMAL
CONSULTATIONS), AND A VIETNAMESE MISOFF ATTENDED THE
SUBCOMMITTEE FOR THE FIRST TIME.

2. UK MISOFF WOODS MADE A BRIEF STATEMENT
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RECAPITULATING RECENT CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN
BERMUDA, SUCH AS THE "GREEN PAPER" ON INDEPENDENCE
AND PLANS TO PUBLISH A WHITE PAPER LATER THIS YEAR,
AND EMPHASIZED THE DEMOCRATIC PRACTICES WHICH PREVAIL
IN BERMUDA AND BERMUDA'S MULTIRACIAL SOCIETY.
ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THE PROCESS IS NOT COMPLETE, WOODS
FOCUSED ON HOW MUCH PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN BERMUDA

IN THE LAST 20 YEARS.

3. COMMENTING ON THE RECENT DISTURBANCES, WOODS EMPHASIZED THAT RIOTS IN DECEMBER 1977 WERE ON A SMALL SCALE AND THAT BRITISH TROOPS WERE NOT CALLED UPON TO DEAL WITH THE DISTURBANCES AND WERE QUICKLY WITHDRAWN. HE NOTED THAT A ROYAL COMMISSION TO INQUIRE INTO THE DISTURBANCES HAS BEEN APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR OF BERMUDA.

4. IRAQI MISOFF REQUESTED MORE INFORMATION FROM UK ON THE CAUSES OF THE RACIAL DISTURBANCES AND IMPLIED THAT UK-PROVIDED INFO ON BERMUDA WAS NOT UP TO DATE. END UNCLASSIFIED.

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5. COMMENT: A DISTURBING ELEMENT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE'S MEETINGS THUS FAR HAS BEEN A SERIES OF CRITICAL QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS BY BULGARIA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND IRAQ TAKING THE UK TO TASK FOR NOT SUBMITTING TIMELY AND COMPREHENSIVE INFORMATION UNDER ARTICLE 73E.

6. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE SUBMITTED THE MOST RECENT STATE OF THE TERRITORY STATEMENT FOR BOTH AMERICAN SAMOA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND GUAM, WE HAVE NOT YET SUBMITTED ANY INFORMATION ON THE U.S VIRGIN ISLANDS NOR THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR ANY OF THE TERRITORIES. UNTIL WE IMPROVE OUR RECORD OF SUBMITTING 73E INFORMATION ON A TIMELY BASIS, WE ARE VULNERABLE TO THE ABOVE CRITISISM. IT WOULD BE A SHAME IF OUR CONSIDERABLE EFFORTS TO IMPROVE OUR RELATIONS WITH THE C-24 WERE TO BE TARNISHED BECAUSE OF LATE SUBMISSION OF 73E INFORMATION.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: THE DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED TO UNDERTAKE FURTHER EFFORTS TO PROVIDE US WITH THE ANNUAL REPORTS FOR AMERICAN SAMOA, GUAM AND THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS AND THE VIRGIN ISLANDS STATE OF THE TERRITORY ADDRESS ASAP. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE YOUNG

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